

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CHARLIE BYRD TRIO IN SRI LANKA

1. CHARLIE BYRD TRIO LEAVES SRI LANKA TODAY
FOLLOWING TRIUMPHAL TOURS IN COLOMBO
AND KANDY AND JAZZ MUSICIANS WORKSHOP AT AMERICAN
CENTER IN COLOMBO. TOUR WAS MARKED BY PACKED
HALLS, EXTENDED APPLAUSE, CRITICAL ACCLAIM
IN THE PRESS, AND DEEP IMPRESSION ON AUDIENCES
WHICH RANGED FROM PRESTIGIOUS CONCERT AT 1500-
SEAT BANDARANAIKE MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE HALL (BMICH) BEFORE PRESIDENT
OF SRI LANKA TO PREDOMINANTLY STUDENT AUDIENCES
ON COLOMBO CAMPUS AND AT KANDY'S TRINITY
COLLEGE.

2. AUDIENCES: FIRST CONCERT WAS IN CABARET
STYLE AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR 70 INVITED
GUESTS WHO INCLUDED ACTING PRIME MINISTER
MAITRIPALA SENANAYAKE, OTHER MINISTERS AND
TOP OFFICIALS, DIPLOMATS, PRESS AND FIGURES
OF CEYLONese MUSICAL WORLD. SECOND CONCERT

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PAGE 02 COLOMB 00393 030857Z

WAS MAJOR PUBLIC CHARITY APPEARANCE CO-SPONSORED

BY SRI LANKA-AMERICA SOCIETY AND
ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM GOPALLAWA,
NEARLY 200 GUESTS OF AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY
AND SOCIETY OFFICIALS, AND GOOD CROSS-SECTION
OF CAPITAL CITY PUBLIC WHICH WAS HIGHLY
APPRECIATIVE OF BYRD'S MUSIC. BYRD TERMED
IT "BEST AUDIENCE" HE HAS HAD SO FAR IN THIS
REGION. (AT INTERMISSION, PRESIDENT GOPALLAWA
ASKED TO SEE BYRD'S HANDS" FROM WHICH FLOWED
SUCH BEAUTIFUL MUSIC.") THIRD CONCERT WAS
TO AUDIENCE DRAWN FROM ALL THREE COLOMBO
AREA CAMPUSES OF UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA,
STUDENTS AND FACULTIES, WITH CROWDED HALL
DESPITE FACT EXAMS NOW BEING HELD. JAZZ

WORKSHOP BROUGHT TO AMERICAN CENTER LEADING
SRI LANKA MUSICIANS INCLUDING NAVY
JAZZ ENSEMBLE. ONE OF HIGHLIGHTS WAS
DRUMMER BILL REICHENBACH ACCOMPANYING
LOCAL GUITARISTS AND FOREMOST VOCALIST
OF COUNTRY IN ORIENTAL SONG LEZUER HAD
COMPOSED. FINAL CONCERT IN KANDY DREW
PRESIDENT OF PERADENIYA CAMPUS, FACULTY

AND STUDENTS OF BOTH UNIVERSITY CAMPUS AND
TRINITY COLLEGE, AS WELL AS LEADING KANDY
TOWNSPEOPLE WITH SRO CONDITIONS IN HALL.

3. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM REVIEW
OF BMICH COLOMBO CONCERT WHICH
APPEARED IN CEYLON OBSERVER FEBRUARY 2:
"CHARLIE BYRD WHO HAS BEEN HAILED AS
ONE OF THE MOST VERSATILE LIVING GUITARISTS
WORKED HIS MAGIC ON THE STRINGS TO AN
ENRAPTURED AUDIENCE AT THE BMICH ON THURSDAY
EVENING. FROM THE FIRST TING TANG TONG OF HIS
QUITAR THE AUDIENCE BROKE INTO SPONTANEOUS
APPLAUSE ACCLAIMING THE GREATNESS OF A SUPERB
CLASSICAL AND JAZZ GUITARIST...
"CHARLIE BYRD WAS WELL SUPPORTED BY
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PAGE 03 COLOMB 00393 030857Z

HIS BROTHER GENE (JOE) BYRD ON THE BASS
GUITAR AND BILL REICHENBACK ON THE DRUMS...
THAT BOTH ACCOMPANISTS WERE OUTSTANDING
MUSICIANS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT WAY OVERLY
EVIDENT IN THEIR SOLO 'SPOTS'...
"IT WAS A TRULY MEMORABLE EVENING OF
MUSIC ON AN INSTRUMENT PLAYED BY AN UNDOUBTED
VIRTUSO AND QUITE REMOVED FROM THE JARRING

SOUNDS THAT PASS FOR QUITAR MUSIC NOWADAYS*
CHARLIE'S ENCORE OF THE 'ONE-NOTE SAMBA'
BROUGHT THE CURTAIN DOWN ON A SHOW WHICH
LOCAL MUSIC LOVERS WILL NOT FORGET FOR A
QLONG TIME."
BRIGGS

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